

Nova Scotia lacks bird songs in the season of song. The observations on which this summary is based were made in the counties of Yarmouth, Kings, and Halifax.

Loon, 2 Gulls, Great Blue Heron, 3 Snipe, Canada Ruffed Grouse, Barred Owl, Belted Kingfisher, 3 Woodpeckers, Nighthawk, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 3 Flycatchers, 2 Jays, Northern Raven, Crow, Rusty Blackbird, 7 Finches, Tree Swallow, 2 Vireos, 18 Warblers, Winter Wren, Redbreasted Nuthatch, 2 Chickadees, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 3 Thrushes.

HARRISON F. LEWIS, BERGERVILLE, P.Q.

PROSECUTIONS, MIGRATORY BIRDS CONVENTION ACT AND NORTHWEST GAME ACT BY OFFICERS OF THE DOMINION PARKS BRANCH AND ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE.

MIGRATORY BIRDS CONVENTION ACT.

George Albert Culbert, Boisevain, Manitoba, for having four live Blue-winged Teal—Fine \$10.00.

Fred Z. Boudreau, Boudreauville, Petit de Grat, Cape Breton, N.S., shooting one Red-breasted Merganser—Fine \$10.00.

Geoffrey Jeffries, Louldale, Richmond Co., Cape Breton, N.S., shooting one Red-breasted Merganser—Fine \$10.00.

Murray Wilson, New Waterford, Cape Breton, N.S., shooting a Black Guillemot—Fine \$10.00.

Frederick Mason, Tancook Islands, N.S., shooting Mergansers in P.E.I.—Fine \$10.00.

Marcus Schnare, Tancook Islands, N.S., shooting Mergansers in P.E.I.—Fine \$10.00.

Sabean Allen, Upper Cape, Westmoreland Co., N.B., shooting a Merganser—case dismissed.

Lloyd Smith, Chebogue, Yarmouth Co., N.S., possession of Canada Geese—Fine \$40.00 and costs.

Harold Cain, Arcadia, Yarmouth Co., N.S., shooting at a Bittern—Fine \$10.00 and costs.

James Paynter, Clinton, P.E.I., selling Canada Geese—Fine \$10.00 and costs.

James Paynter, Clinton, P.E.I., possession of parts of Canada Geese—case dismissed.

Wesley Paynter, French River, P.E.I., possession of Canada Geese—Fine \$10.00 and costs.

Charles Paynter, Long River, P.E.I., possession of Canada Geese—case dismissed.

Robert Gibbles, Petite Lamec, Shippigan, N.B., serving Canada Goose at meals—case dismissed.

NORTHWEST GAME ACT.

Peter Alexey (Indian) Husky River, for killing Mountain Sheep—Penalty—7 sheep hides, 1 head and carcasses. Seized and forfeited.

ACCESSIONS TO THE MUSEUM OF THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, CANADA—The Museum of the Geological Survey, the *de facto* if not the *de jure* National Museum of Canada has received lately two donations of more than ordinary importance.

One is from Mr. W. E. Saunders, of London, Ont., well known as an enthusiastic and public spirited naturalist. It consists of duplicates which in a life-time's work he has naturally gathered in his private collecting and which he feels would fill a larger sphere of usefulness in the National collections. They number 922 bird and 103 mammal skins. The great value of this particular collection lies in the fact that it contains many specimens collected at comparatively early dates and represent conditions passed beyond recall and upon which we have little or no other data.

The other contribution was made by Mr. Ernest Thompson Seton, who is too well known to require particular personal mention here. It consists of some 102 bird skins and an important collection of zoological books and pamphlets. The former is more notable from the original and unique records it contains than for numbers and the latter includes many rare papers and the proceedings of some small or defunct learned societies that are difficult to obtain.

These donations form valuable additions to our National collections which constitute the basis of exact ornithological work in Canada and as such will be of assistance to all present and future ornithological workers in the Dominion.

P. A. TAVERNER.

THE NAME OF THE "ENGLISH SPARROW"—The House Sparrow, of Europe, since its introduction into America, has been so popularly called the "English Sparrow" that it hardly seems worth while to endeavor to return to the correct designation. Since the beginning of the war, however, there have been some suggestions of obvious intent, to call this undesirable citizen the "Prussian Sparrow." The proposal however is purely academic and there seems little chance that a name so firmly established can be changed in current usage even by the best intentions of the loyal friends of England. During the war, however, there have been some changes in the scientific name of this bird that are interesting to the general public as well as the nomenclaturist.

In *Falco*, No. 2, Dec. 2, 1905, Kleinschmidt, of obvious nationality, separated the bird of the British isles from the continental form under the name of *Passer hostilis* thus commemorating to some degree the Song of Hate in scientific nomenclature. H. C. Oberholser, *Auk*, 1917, 329, states that

whilst the British and the Continental forms may be distinct, the difference is only subspecific and hence the insular bird should stand as *Passer domesticus hostilis*. As undoubtedly our birds are descendents of English stock the same name applies to them. Thus though it does not seem that "Prussian Sparrow" can ever be substituted for "English Sparrow" in this country we really accomplish the same and by a sort of reflex action the opposite of the intention of the original describer, in calling it *hostilis*, the enemy.

P. A. TAVERNER.

LANTERN SLIDES FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES.—For some time the Biological Division of the Geological Survey of Canada has maintained a collection of lantern slides for free educational use. This collection covers about three hundred slides of various natural history subjects. They are mostly from original photographs taken by officers of the Survey though some have been kindly donated by other photographic naturalists. Most of them are unusually well colored and of great photographic as well as zoological interest. The series is still far from complete but it is being added to as rapidly as possible and already it is possible to illustrate a great number of subjects by its means. Birds are principally represented but mammals, amphibians and reptiles are also included in the series.

Collections of these slides are loaned freely to any responsible person or institution to be used for educational purposes and not for personal profit. The only conditions attached to their use are, that they be returned promptly with a report on the occasion of their use and that the borrower pays express charges, if any, and makes good losses not due to ordinary wear and tear.

It is regretted that distance makes it impossible to extend this service west in the prairie provinces, or to the Pacific coast at present, but plans are now being considered for having duplicate sets distributed from the branch offices of the Survey in Edmonton and Vancouver.

Any one desiring to use these slides should make written request to the Biological Division of the Geological Survey, Ottawa, stating his official position, if any, the subject of the lecture it is proposed to illustrate, the society, institution or audience to be addressed, or under whose auspices the gathering is to be held, the number and kind of slides desired and the date. The application should be made well in advance so that conflict of dates can be adjusted. The slides should be returned promptly that others who may be waiting for them and have dates already set may not be disappointed.

P. A. TAVERNER,

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BIRD MIGRATION.—In the May, 1919 number of THE CANADIAN FIELD-NATURALIST there is an article on the above subject by Mr. H. Mousley containing statements which can hardly be allowed to pass unchallenged.

Mr. Mousley rejects as "one of the fairy tales of science" the theory that birds during migration find their way by the sense of sight. He states that "in pure nature there is no such thing as self-consciousness, or the power of reasoning," yet he admits that these faculties are found in man. If man is not a part of "pure nature" then we are forced to the conclusion that he must be regarded as super-natural, a conclusion with which I think few scientific men will agree. Further this statement is not in accord with carefully conducted observations and experiments on the higher animals. Mr. Mousley goes on to say that some of the higher animals, such as dogs, horses, etc., from long and intimate association with man, no doubt at times display traces of it, that is, of self-consciousness or reason. This statement again is contrary to all the data furnished by the study of animal psychology, since no entirely new type of mental process, such as reason, can possibly be evolved by association with man, and all that man can do in the training of animals is to make use of, and develop more fully, faculties already possessed by the animals in question.

Mr. Mousley continues: "All wild birds and animals, however, I believe, are subconscious, and therein lies the secret of their making no mistakes." The onus of proof that wild animals "make no mistakes" is upon Mr. Mousley. If this were true it would be most fortunate for them, but I fancy any close observer of wild life can recall cases in which wild animals have made mistakes, mistakes which in many instances have cost them their lives.

The next statement is: "To understand this more fully one must be prepared to accept the fact that telepathy (now recognized by science) pervades and is general throughout the entire animal kingdom. It is a potential faculty (working on an astral plane unknown to us at present) which interconnects subconscious mind, and permits silent intercourse to be established." I would venture to suggest that telepathy is far from being recognized by the majority of scientific men, that the idea of "astral planes" is regarded by most biologists as a phantasy, and that there is absolutely no proof that any mind can communicate with any other mind, save through the medium of the senses of hearing, sight, touch or smell.

But Mr. Mousley goes even further than relying on telepathy to account for the directing of migra-



Taverner, P. A. 1920. "The Name of the English Sparrow." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 34(6), 117–118. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.337983>.

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